



Washington in Waianae: Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard hears from community

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WAIANAЕ, Hawaii - Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard held a town hall meeting, on Saturday, called "Congress on Your Corner." to listen to her constituents concerns for their community and country.

We can't be intelligently active until we really get deeper information from you," said one community member.

"I believe your signature was not on that letter could you explain that," asked another.

While some in attendance expressed their frustrations, others shared their gratitude toward Rep. Gabbard.

"This is about the Hawaiian principles of aloha.. which you are exemplifying, thank you," added a Oahu resident.

"I think we heard a diverse set of opinions today.. that represent the diversity in our community," Rep. Gabbard said about the town hall.

In addition to talking about her recent work in congress, Rep. Gabbard addressed topics from the crowd ranging from, the country's new administration to her recent trip to Syria.

"I reimbursed completely every penny of the cost of this trip because questions, like yours, were coming up about this organization..that we're distracting from the substance of the issue at hand," Rep. Gabbard said in response to a constituents question.

Other audience members asked questions regarding healthcare, education, the environment and federal funding.

"We need an access road, we need an emergency Mauka highway," Waianae resident and neighborhood board member, Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya said.

Rep. Gabbard also spoke about how she is actively looking at ways to reform the criminal justice system.

She spent all week, during her time in Hawaii, visiting correction facilities on Oahu, Kauai and Maui.

"Across the country our criminal justice system is vastly broken and really having a detrimental, physical impact in the cost of running these overcrowded prisons," she said.

But some say Rep. Gabbard should have spent more one-on-one time with Hawaii residents.

"When she has this time here in Hawaii.. when she's home from D.C. She needs to use it more valuably by talking to us," Oahu resident, Michael Golojuch Jr. said.

"My priority since getting elected to this job was to be as available to our constituents, as possible. Last year alone we conducted nearly 200 community engagement visits, meetings, forums all across the state," Gabbard said.

This is the first town hall Gabbard has this year, and while she is headed back to Washington D.C., she has plans for more when she returns.

"For a resident to have the our congresswoman come out here in Waianae.. to be able to talk to her you can see from the audience that we all wanted to ask more questions," Kahanamoku-Teruya said.

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myauthorizedopinion • 5 hours ago

Golojuch, "lil g" is never happy with anything. Gabbard with nearly 200 community engagement visits, meetings, forums all across the state and what's the lil fella want? More talk? Not action, "lil g" wants more talk.

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Christine • an hour ago

There were a lot of people at this event with personal connections to Congresswoman Gabbard. Some of them unfortunately attempted to intimidate and shut down critical questions and efforts to ensure the event would be a town hall, not another political speech. The below comment resorting to personally insulting one of the concerned constituents at the event is a prime example of what I saw and heard from several people personally connected to Gabbard at the event yesterday. "Myauthorizedopinion," you are not doing Gabbard any favors with such comments. Please also consider using your own name when naming others in such an insulting manner. Many constituents want more town halls and would appreciate them being scheduled more than 24 hours in advance and in more central locations. This one town hall took place because concerned constituents spoke up.

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